

The report's conclusion states in part:

... the central theme of what we learned is that the federal government cannot consistently and effectively replicate success stories throughout the nation in the form of federal programs. Instead, federal education dollars should support effective State and local initiatives, ensuring that neither impedes local innovation and control, nor diverts dollars from the classroom through burdensome regulations and overhead.

The report goes on to give specific steps for Congress to take to improve education in America. The report advocates increasing the ability of States and local communities to waive federal education regulations, reducing the tax burden on families, passing tax-free education savings account legislation, improving federal support for charter schools, and otherwise encouraging more parental choice in education.

I have long been an advocate of many of the suggestions outlined in this report. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will take the time to review the report Congressman HOEKSTRA's subcommittee has prepared and consider where they stand on these issues. It is long past time for both parties in Congress to stop simply giving lip service to the idea of local control of education, and to put our money where our mouths are.

Finally, I want to remind my colleagues that although I have introduced and passed twice in the last year an amendment that would allow States and local school districts increased control over the education of their children. Because of the insistence of Democrats in the Senate, the President, and even some Members of my own party this legislation has not yet survived a conference committee. Although I have not yet been successful in passing this legislation into law to give States and local communities the relief they deserve and need to improve education in America, I will again in the near future propose legislation that moves us toward this goal. Whether through block grants or some other means, I am committed to the belief that real education reform will not take place through "... guidance from above ...", but from parents and educators in communities across this land as they are empowered to direct the education of their children.

Mr. President, I note also present on the floor is Senator FRIST, the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee task force on education, whose work is of equal importance to that of Congressman HOEKSTRA's and whose report I also commend to the Members of this body. He is our great expert on health care, but he is also a major leader in education reform in the U.S. Senate, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday,

July 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,537,084,024,142.92 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty-seven billion, eighty-four million, twenty-four thousand, one hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-two cents).

One year ago, July 23, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,367,623,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred sixty-seven billion, six hundred twenty-three million).

Five years ago, July 23, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,342,543,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred forty-two billion, five hundred forty-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 23, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$455,892,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-five billion, eight hundred ninety-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,081,192,024,142.92 (Five trillion, eighty-one billion, one hundred ninety-two million, twenty-four thousand, one hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-two cents) during the past 25 years.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-6165. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding measures to expedite resolution of certain common carrier formal complaint proceedings (Docket 98-154) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6166. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Pauls Valley, Ratliff City, and Sulphur, Oklahoma, Abilene, Bowie, Highland Village, Mt. Pleasant and Overton, Texas)" (Docket 97-84) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6167. A communication from the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's annual report for 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6168. A communication from the Chairman of the Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Subcommittee's annual report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6169. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, notice of military retirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6170. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, certification that full-up live-fire test and evaluation of the Department of the Navy's CH-60 Fleet Combat Support Helicopter would be unreasonably expensive and impractical; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6171. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Limes and Avocados Grown in Florida; Relaxation of Container Dimension, Weight, and Marking Requirements" (Docket FV98-911-2) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6172. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Tomatoes from France, Morocco and Western Sahara, Chile, and Spain" (Docket 97-016-2) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6173. A communication from the Administrator of the Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program" (RIN0575-AC14) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6174. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The State Meat and Poultry Inspection Assistance Act"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6175. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-383 adopted by the Council on June 2, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6176. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-384 adopted by the Council on June 2, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6177. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-385 adopted by the Council on June 2, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6178. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-386 adopted by the Council on June 2, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6179. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-393 adopted by the Council on June 2, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6180. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-398 adopted by the Council on June 2, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6181. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-402 adopted by the Council on June 16, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6182. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-404 adopted by the Council on June 16, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6183. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-405 adopted by the Council on June 16, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6184. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-407 adopted by the Council on June 16, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6185. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding the discharge of pollutants from organic pesticide manufacture (FRL6126-6) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6186. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Michigan: Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL6128-6) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6187. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan; Indiana" (FRL6129-7) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6188. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: South Carolina" (FRL6129-9) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6189. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding approval of Minnesota landfill gas emissions control plans (FRL6128-8) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6190. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Operating Permits Program; Interim Approval Expiration Dates" (FRL6128-9) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6191. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Reconsideration of Petition Criteria and Incorporation of Montreal Protocol Decisions" (FRL6129-2) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6192. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Respiratory Protection and Controls to Restrict Internal Exposures" (RIN3150-AF81) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6193. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Licenses for Industrial Radiography and Radiation Safety Requirements for Industrial Radiographic Operations; Clarifying Amendments and Corrections" (RIN3150-

AE07) received on July 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6194. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule that identifies certain rulings that are no longer considered determinative (Rev. Ru. 98-37) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6195. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations Under the Federal Land Program; State-Federal Cooperative Agreements; Montana" received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6196. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fresh Bartlett Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket FV98-931-1 IFR) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6197. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding funding priorities for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-6198. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites" (FRL6130-9) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6199. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Canton, Normal, and Heyworth, Illinois)" (Docket 96-225) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6200. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Gurdon, Arkansas)" (Docket 98-40) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6201. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Johnstown and Altamont, New York)" (Docket 98-31) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6202. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Walla Walla and Pullman, Washington, and Hermiston, Oregon)" (Docket 97-246) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6203. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance

Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Horseshoe Beach and Otter Creek, Florida)" (Docket 97-239) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6204. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Salmon, Idaho)" (Docket 98-51) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6205. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Commission's Rules Concerning Maritime Communications" (Docket 92-257) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6206. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal-State Board on Universal Service" (Docket 96-45) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6207. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Shenandoah, Virginia)" (Docket 98-30) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6208. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Point Arena, California)" (Docket 97-236) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6209. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Fowler, Indiana)" (Docket 98-38) received on July 23, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 1883. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery and the Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center to the State of Alabama, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-263).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated: